

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7593

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06764

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, EC, FR

SUBJECT: ALLIED RELATIONS CONCERNING WEST BERLIN

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH US, PLAISANT (QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) TOOK INITIATIVE IN RAISING SEVERAL POINTS CONCERNING SITUATION IN WEST BERLIN. THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION PLAISANT STRESSED HIS HOPE THAT ALLIED RESPONSIBILITIES WITH REGARD TO WEST BERLIN WOULD NOT BE ERODED. WE BELIEVE THIS UNDERLINES CONCERN IN PARIS THAT FRG VIGOR IN PURSUING TIES WITH WEST BERLIN MUST BE CAREFULLY BALANCED WITH ALLIED INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. EC ACTIVITIES IN WEST BERLIN: REFERRING TO EC VOCATIONAL CENTER, PLAISANT SAID THAT FRENCH WANT TO MAINTAIN COMPLETE TRIPARTITE (US, FRANCE' UK) INVOLVEMENT IN WHOLE QUESTION OF CURRENT AND FUTURE EC "CONNECTION"
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WITH WEST BERLIN. IN PARTICULAR, PLAISANT STRESSED

FRENCH DESIRE TO HAVE U.S. FULLY INVOLVED IN CONSIDERATION OF ALL SUCH DEVELOPMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO AUTOMATICITY TO THE EXTENSION TO WEST BERLIN OF FUTURE COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS THAT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE EC AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; THIS SORT OF DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF TRIPARTITE CONSIDERATION AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. BWC: PLAISANT SAID THAT THE FRG RECENTLY APPROACHED THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN BONN TO RENEW THEIR ATTEMPTS TO HAVE BWC EXTENDED TO WEST BERLIN. ACCORDING TO PLAISANT, FRENCH HAVE REPLIED TO THIS APPROACH WITH A FIRM NEGATIVE. MOREOVER, PLAISANT SAID THAT FRENCH ARE DETERMINED TO OPPOSE THIS SORT OF FRG EXTENSION TO BERLIN: I.E., FRG INITIATIVES TOUCHING ON SECURITY MATTERS. WE RESPONDED THAT U.S. CONTINUES TO OPPOSE EXTENSION OF BWC TO BERLIN.

4. COMMENT: PLAISANT IS OBVIOUSLY TROUBLED BY WHAT HE SEES AS OCCASIONAL EXCESSES IN FRG VIGOR IN APPLYING QA PROVISIONS. WE SUSPECT THAT PLAISANT IS REFLECTING SIMILAR CONCERNS OF SAUVAGNARGUES. AT A TIME WHEN THE EC DIMENSION MAY INTRODUCE NEW COMPLICATIONS TO ALLIED COHESION ON BERLIN MATTERS, WE BELIEVE PLAISANT'S COMMENTS SHOULD BE READ AS A DESIRE ON HIS PART TO SEE A CONTINUATION OF THE EXCELLENT COOPERATION THAT HAS GONE ON IN THE PAST BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE U.S. ON BERLIN MATTERS, BILATERALLY, TRILATERALLY, AND WITHIN THE BONN GROUP.

MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE HIS COMMENTS REFLECT CONCERN IN PARIS THAT FRG EFFORTS TO BUILD MORE TIES WITH BERLIN NOT BE PERMITTED TO GET OUT OF HAND AND LEAD TO A RENEWAL OF BERLIN ISSUES GENERALLY DEFUZED BY THE QA. FINALLY, WE SUSPECT THAT FRENCH WANT TO INSURE THAT U.S. IS FULLY ENGAGED ON ALL POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS BERLIN ISSUES AT TAKEOFF, SO THAT U.S. WILL BE OBLIGED TO PARTICIPATE IN LANDING AS WELL -- WHETHER IT BE SMOOTH OR BUMPY.

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